

Title: Interview with Casey Goldsborough

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Interviewer(s): Will Schatz and Christopher Knorr

Interviewee: Casey Goldsborough

Introduction: Casey Goldsborough speaks of his experience as a younger member of the Crisfield community, as he is actively engaged in the planning and development of the city and its regular events. He also talks about the history of Crisfield and some of its surroundings, and what he would like to see come to fruition for Crisfield's future.

[Transcription begins]

Will Schatz (Schatz): Hello, my name is Will, we are from Salisbury University, interviewing you about Crisfield. How long have you lived in the Crisfield area?

Casey Goldsborough (Goldsborough): So, I've lived here my whole life, 28 years old, going to be 29 this year.

Schatz: Cool, what was it like to grow up in Crisfield?

Goldsborough: Even 28 years ago it was a lot different. When I grew up, we knew everybody in town, it was very close knit, small community. Now we have a lot of people leaving, especially after Sandy, but there is a lot people coming into like retirees and all so it doesn't give you the you-know-everybody effect and you know their people, their family, their children, but you still have the small community aspect.

Schatz: What keeps you in Crisfield?

Goldsborough: That's a tough question to be honest with you. I- I love it here. I really do. This has been my home since I was a kid. I tried to go away to Frostburg University for a semester and I stayed the semester but it was horrible. It's something about the salt air, the salt water down here that, that I just can't get enough of for me.

Christopher Knorr (Knorr): Are there any cherished memories that you would say that you have with Crisfield?

Goldsborough: You know, I'm involved with a lot down here. I used to be the director of the museum. I am on the City Council, but the, the main thing that, that, it's weird I have flashbacks to when I was a kid, is playing little league or T-ball behind the high school. I can remember the opening day. I remember the smell of the grass being cut. Like, it's just memories like that where I get a visual of what Crisfield used to be, it was another time we did a parade for the National Guard when I was, I think three or four years old and I remember sitting in the crowd watching them go by, little things like that.

Schatz: How do you entertain yourself in Crisfield?

Goldsborough: I'm a pretty big video game guy, but majority of my time is ate up with different community services, whether it's doing stuff for the city, museum. Working on trying to get a graveyard cut right now in the city and raise money for that. Just community-based stuff is a big way I keep myself entertained.

Schatz: Do you attend any community events regularly?

Goldsborough: Yeah, unfortunately. No, so the City Council meetings I obviously do regularly. Every Memorial Day we have a Memorial Day service we go to. Crab Derby I go to every year, pretty much all of them, honestly. I have to, I don't even want to say I have to do, but I enjoy doing it. The community events are the only time that I actually get to look back and see what Crisfield was like. So, I'm a big historian, went to Salisbury University as well, graduated with a history degree. Which I don't know what you guys are going for but I don't recommend getting history there's not much jobs for it after, but no, so I got a history degree and getting to see what this town was like what the city was like before I was born, you know back during pre-war times and just after the war, fifties, sixties, this town was a booming place and wanting to relive that one day as a dream but that's what I would hope to see.

Knorr: Would you say that with the, with sort of these community events and the, the history that you speak of kind of the water and being so close to it has played a factor like being right up against the water?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I mean, so our life down here has been on the water, okay, so you know it's the big thing right now, is you know, the tide's coming in and we can't get out, things like that, but we've lived with that. That's something that we've always dealt with, we've managed to deal with. It's getting worse by far. I mean my, my grandfather told me stories when he was a kid, how he would just get on a little skiff and he would go two minutes out on the water and they'd be on an island and looking for arrowheads would be a big thing that they would do. And he always told me and my brother that he felt sorry for us because we wouldn't get to cherish those childhood memories that he had of just getting on a skiff and going out to islands and looking arrowheads and glass and things like that. It's, it's hard at this point because you do see why people have gotten fed up with the city of Crisfield and just leaving and moving away

because when you look at a day that you're locked in your house completely because there's tide all over where you're going to ruin your car, it's frustrating and I understand that.

Schatz: Do you have personal preparations for flooding?

Goldsborough: So, I'm fairly blessed where I live, I'm on probably some of the highest ground in the city of Crisfield. I don't have any flooding prevention right now, however, my father owns a business downtown and it's called Goldsborough's Marine, and yeah, they've got a pretty-pretty elaborate way that they work on trying to keep water out by making dams around the, the building and sealing different areas up of the property. It's a lot that goes into, I apologize, it's a lot that goes into their preparation, but, you know, they've got a multi-million-dollar business down there and stuff so they don't want to lose that.

Knorr: I know they said talking to other people and everything that the, the city of Crisfield a lot of times will kind of provide like the sand or the bags-

Goldsborough: Yeah, so I know the city every time does sand and bags, preparation that they'll try to do, so, and this is where I'll kind of nerd out on you guys, I apologize. The big thing that ruins property for the city of Crisfield with water, it's not the water coming up. Very rarely will you have the water, in fact Sandy was probably the only time where you have water coming up getting in homes. It's Crisfielders, I don't know how many of us you've interviewed, are very nosy people and they're very inquisitive and curious. Nosy probably not the best word. So, their reaction when there's high tide and floods all across town is to drive through it. Well, you know, when you're pushing a heavy vehicle, truck, whatever you're driving through it, it's making waves. And the waves are what's getting in businesses, the waves are what's getting in homes. Now the city tries to do stuff where you have police out and barricades out to prevent people from doing it, but you can't have police everywhere. So, they'll just go around the barricade or push the cone over and go. And that's what's more detrimental than anything.

Schatz: Do you see others or the city prepare for such events?

Goldsborough: Yeah, so with, with everybody especially if you're on this side of the highway, you'll see people are ready to go get the sand, get sandbags. We've seen like my father he's developed a way that he has huge garage doors that he takes long two-by-fours and he glues them together and they silicone them into place and it keeps the water out. Some people choose differently though just try to get everything that they can either higher or out just in case the water does come in. One of the main things people do is if we know there's a significant flood event going to happen, their cars will be in Food Lion parking lot, and all of Food Lion cars will be for the down neck region, it'll be Asbury Church, that's pretty high ground there, or the high school, people park across the high school all the time.

Knorr: Outside of like Sandy, would you say that there are any storms or flooding events that you kind of vividly remember?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I remember a lot. Ok, so the October 29th flood of 2021, I think it was. That was a pretty gnarly one. That was mainly just a king tide, and the winds were pushing just right out of the west, and she was dumping right on us. I know homes got flooded there, but I know a big issue of that flood was, you know, cars going through, pushing water in. When I was a child, I think it was Hurricane Isabelle, we had a ton of wind, which pushed water in the city heavily, but that, I don't remember anybody flooding out really, but it was mainly the winds. See, with Crisfield being that peninsula region, it's a struggle because all it takes is the wind to be right with the tide and the moon, and it's what happened with Sandy, you know. During Sandy, they said that Annapolis Harbor was almost empty of water because all that water was being pushed over here.

Schatz: Yup. Do you feel like climate change is something people in Crisfield actively discuss and plan, plan for?

Goldsborough: No, I think there's more climate change deniers here than probably at an average anywhere. I know that's crazy to accept, but it's- it's frustrating too because someone like myself who has never physically been around long enough to see major climate change, right? I can understand and accept that there's obviously something happening in this world, whether people want to claim it it's, you know. Side note, there's an old guy that I know that swears that the sea level rise is caused because we're putting too many boats in the water and there's too many things going in the water like a bathtub. It's just a funny thing. But whether something is causing climate change to happen, it is, okay? And even though I'm not able to prove it from what I've seen in my short period of time, the conversation with my grandfather. Well, you know, islands were washing away. You know, Hollands Island used to be a huge island in the state of Maryland that people were living on, and they had to leave because the island was eroding, washing away, climate change, you know, however you want to see it. From the city, from the Crisfield standpoint, we've only recently started to admit that climate change is an issue, which has helped push us to get the funds recently from FEMA and places like that to- to stop the flooding and stop the tide coming in.

Knorr: You know, would you say a lot of times when we interview people kind of around that topic, it, it, it becomes less about like what you're saying, it gets a little bit less about the actual issues and the changing and it becomes more a topic around, you know, well what does that entail and then the government and then, you know, the grants and people, the term climate change and that becomes less about the changing of the water and the rising tides and everything and more about, like you said, someone's like, well, it's because there's boats in here, or there's this, and that's the government, you know.

Goldsborough: The biggest problem that we have down here is the acceptance, okay? I can look at you and I can accept that the land we're probably standing on in the next 100, 150 years isn't going to be here because I'm a realist, it's just who I am. Whereas more people down here do not want to accept that. They don't want to say, like you know, the place that I grew up, the town that I was in, it is not going to be here in 100, 150 years because of sea level rise, climate change. I can accept that. I mean it's sad and it's frustrating, but it's, it's inevitable, you know what I mean, unless something tremendously changes across the world, not just the United States, you know. One of the biggest polluters in the world is China and Russia. They affect all of us, but yeah, I think that's the biggest issue, and that's why I don't know how many people you guys have interviewed, like I said, but they probably pushed it more towards the erosion side rather than climate change, you know, well it's the water washing the land away and all.

Knorr: Yeah, definitely some of our interviews, I've seen that, like that's a theme I've seen more here than what I would have expected outside of just kind of, like once you actually start doing the work it's like erosion and climate change sometimes, but I wanted to change the gear a little bit here. You said your dad owns a business downtown and everything. How do you think the business sector and downtown business is doing?

Goldsborough: Okay, so, it's bad to say. Crisfield struggles to support Crisfield businesses. It's not always been that way but it's something that we're seeing now. I don't know why, specifically, but my father, he sells boat packages, so, you know, boat, motor, trailers, things like that. He does work on boat, motors and trailers. He does a lot of work for Crisfielders. But selling packages, he mainly will sell out of town. People come from Baltimore, D.C., New Jersey, Salisbury, to come down and buy boats. It's hard on the businesses because we have such a little, little tax, property taxes that we collect every year, that typically the businesses are the ones that get hit with it. They've been in business since 1971, so you know, over 50 years at this point, and they've been able to manage, but it's mainly pushing out of town sales rather than in town sales.

Schatz: Have you participated in any community events around the issue of flooding?

Goldsborough: That's a tough one. Yeah, so besides just being on the City Council and really pushing for the flooding, grants that we're getting, infrastructure bills, even though who knows what's going to happen with them, I'm trying to think of any other events that we would do to specifically deal with flooding. None's coming to my mind. I mean, I participated in the crab and clam bake last year, two years ago. And I don't know if you guys saw the pictures of that, but the whole marina was flooded. So, everyone was kind of wading through the water to get their crabs and their beer. So, things like that.

Knorr: Are there any kind of projects that excite you, whether it's, I mean, you said you're on the City Council, so you might have a little more insight, whether it's weather or business or any.

Goldsborough: Yeah, the \$3.8, or the \$38.1 million was exciting. Now we've not officially heard that we've lost that funds. That was a FEMA grant through BRIC-DTA, I'm sure you guys are aware of it. I'm pretty sure we've lost it. Been on the FEMA's website, we used to have a whole page on there where it said Crisfield's Flood Mitigation Project. It's not there anymore. You know, no matter what political spectrum you guys are on, that's frustrating because that that does build infrastructure for small communities. That was a big one that I was excited for. Tidal Health I'm still excited for, we just announced that we've sold property on Main Street and I don't know if you guys have seen our Main Street, it's pretty much dilapidated. There are businesses there on one side but the other side is completely ruined with buildings and we just sold that to Tidal Health which we're hoping will build a state-of-the-art medical facility there.

Schatz: Have you or anyone you know had to move or make a major repairs because of flooding?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I lost a car because of flooding, that was depressing. Yeah, my first car I got when I was 16 years old was a Mitsubishi Galant, and just because we had to get to school, get to work, I worked out at the marina for a few years and the museum is one of the worst places that it floods. We would drive the car through it. And two years ago, I took it to the auto shop and the whole frame underneath had rusted out from the tidewater. My dad's business has always had issues where the floodwaters would get past his barricades. And we would do the, you know, reactive stuff, of having to push the water back out on the street get it outside once it dried up. As for my home personally, no, I remember the worst thing I ever did was during Sandy I remember watching the water kind of rush down my parent's road, because I was living with my parents at the time, and we had to go outside to the garage because our garage was ground level and there was a freezer in there and we had the hoist the freezer up while standing in about a foot of water, so that wasn't the best idea, but no we didn't lose anything major then so.

Knorr: What, what're your opinions on like, mitigation projects in kind of lower land versus just kind of relocating out and trying to get up to higher?

Goldsborough: Yeah, so it's been a- an ongoing thing playing in my mind for the city, you know, the city at one point was recommended that we should start pushing our way up the highway and getting away. I don't like that idea, I understand that could be the only option we have one day, but I think that when you look at other places like Amsterdam and New Orleans, they were able to build what we were hoping to build with that 38.1 mil. Which would be almost like a dike style system that's going to go around the entire city and protect us. And then when the waters do come in, because they're going to come in and you can't always stop them, you would pump them out and have them out of your way. That's honestly probably the only way we were going to be able to survive. And look, we're not giving up on that project. Hopefully that that project gets funded through some other source. But yeah, that- that was definitely the most positive thing we've seen in a long time for the City of Crisfield.

Schatz: How has local economy, particularly industries like fishing, crabbing, and tourism changed over the years?

Goldsborough: Yeah, that, that's what's killed Crisfield more or less than anything, is the fishing, the crabbing, and the oyster industry. Unfortunately, but fortunately, you know, pessimist that I am, the state of Maryland started regulating heavily on fishing and crabbing and oysters. Now, don't get me wrong, a Crisfielder would be the person who would harvest the very last oyster, fish, crab, as well as a lot of watermen would do that you know not just Crisfielders, but a lot a watermen will do that and they'd be upset when there was no more. However, when you had such a booming industry like the charter industry in Crisfield and then you regulated say we can only catch two fish when you go out that's a lot harder for people to want to go out and pay seventy-five dollars a ticket to go on a boat to catch two fish. Regulations really is what killed the area, because those heavy regulations made the town less desirable to come, because you go out one day go fishing and that's it you know, you're going to catch two fish and be done within two hours.

Knorr: Yeah, we've kind of heard that a little bit of like regulation and everything has would you think that if there could be a better connect between maybe like the upper government and the watermen and what's going on down here that it could help maybe revitalize?

Goldsborough: Potentially, but like I said, the big thing that I know is there, there's a lot of watermen that would- would fish the last one, I mean you know. We had a problem back in the early 8, or I'm sorry, the late 1800s where our bay was plentiful with oysters, plentiful. And the New York, oystermen and fishermen and all fished up pretty much the entire bay. And then they came down here and they were ready to go and then the state of Maryland stepped in and were like hold on, if you don't live here, you can't harvest here. That just promoted them to move here, but, you know, that that helped us grow. But, you know, if we didn't have regulations, I don't have any doubt in my mind that that would end up just like that. We wouldn't have crabs or oysters or even fish.

Schatz: How are businesses doing in Crisfield?

Goldsborough: Struggling. I think that's the only answer for that. I know restaurants struggle through the winter. Even big businesses like my father's, you know, they- they struggle through winter. One of the things that my dad always says is February and January, because that's what you have to do, you have to worry about how you're going to pay your bills those few months. Yeah, that's all I can say it's struggling.

Schatz: How's the future for businesses looking in Crisfield?

Goldsborough: I'm fairly positive about it. I think Crisfield is destined for a boom eventually of homes being built, retirees coming in with the idea that we can stick to a small tourism

community, not a huge one. I think aspirations of building a dock around the entire city are just outlandish. I think trying to put a venue that has events going on 24 weeks out of year is, it's a fairy tale dream that I'd love to see, but I don't think it's feasible. I mean, events that happen now are struggling, you know. The city held an event and we lost a ton of money on it just because I don't even know why we held the event to be honest with you. [pauses]

Knorr: Do you think younger generations are likely to stay in Crisfield, or?

Goldsborough: No, I think I think I'm an outlier. Yeah, it's- it's tough because the- the city nor does the area offer anything for kids to go. I mean, you guys have been in Salisbury, you have a lot of things to do. Movies, Crown Sports Center, arcades, there's, there's plenty of things to do in Salisbury, plenty of shopping to do. But down here the only thing I would do on the weekends would be go get a bunch of beer and get drunk by a bonfire, so not much good around here.

Schatz: Do you see yourself sticking around Crisfield?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I I'm rooted at this point. There's nowhere else I can go. Yeah, I mean I got a dream of one day maybe trying to move down to Florida, so I don't have to pay much in taxes to the state of Maryland, but that's more of the state than it is Crisfield itself. I do love it down here it's great don't get me wrong it's just it's frustrating. I really think we've got a gem down here but others don't.

Knorr: Kind of speaking on the, the youth factor a little bit sort of that same point, do you think that because when people argue, like you said you're an "outlier", do you think it if there were more for people to do and in like your class in your generation when they were sort of going off to college, like you said you tried Frostburg and everything but you like came back and you're the outlier, do you that there's something that can happen to bring kind of that youth and the people that are here back a little bit?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I think two things. I think the biggest one is jobs, you know, our biggest employer is either the school system, the hospital, or Sherman Williams is probably the biggest one. Other than that, there are there are no jobs down here. Jobs would be the biggest thing that would keep my generation or the future generations to stay. The second thing that I think would be things to do for families because it's just. Events aren't sustainable to try to give families something to do as much as just regular business, a bowling alley, bars, restaurants, things like that that has families going out and experience the day-to-day kind of thing going on will be more beneficial for the city to get.

Schatz: Are you hopeful for the future of Crisfield in the next 20 years?

Goldsborough: Next 20. Yeah, I mean, I am still hopeful. If we can get the FEMA project to go through, I think we'll be in a great position. I think a lot still needs to change, whether it happens

in that 20 years or not, I don't know. But I do, I think the growth that you're seeing across the state and even in our county as of right now between Princess Anne growing and jobs being created in the Westover area, I think people will look to Crisfield to kind of be that small town community that they can come, they can build their homes at or they can just buy a home at and fix up while still being in a range of work.

Knorr: So, would you say that that project, the FEMA one, was kind of the big one to, or is like the major kind of thing to keep people in the main area of Crisfield, or, and if that doesn't happen, do you think then it just has to shift up, or is there other?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I, I do. So, that, the main part of that project, if that does not happen, you are not going to be able to guarantee your businesses they can't flood. Okay? So, you're not going to be able to guarantee your homeowners that you're going to be not able to flood. There's going problems on the guaranteed side so then people have to pay more for insurance then people are gonna have to question "Hold on if I've got a business down here and I'm gonna flood out eleven times a year or have tide eleven times year where I'm not going to get my business," that's something they're think about "well I'll just go to Princess Anne, maybe Salisbury" And that's yeah if, if that project doesn't go through, I can see the city's envisionment to start shifting and having to be moved further upland rather than keep pushing for this.

Knorr: So, you would maybe say that the kind of that rising tide in water is sort of maybe one of the bigger barriers to the businesses and not the.

Goldsborough: And, and just homeownership. I mean think about it. You guys are young if you're willing to go out and get a loan for say \$200,000, \$250,000 on a house and the place that you're willing to live is like we can't guarantee that it's not gonna flood. Are you going to be willing to put your investment there? No, it's, it's tough, it's very tough

Schatz: What are your thoughts on relocation? Have you or any of your friends or family relocated?

Goldsborough: I've had a few families, members move out of town, either up in Marion or Pocomoke, they still stay relatively close in the area. I'm not moving, my parents probably aren't going to move, my brother, he's kind of the outlier right now, so he doesn't work in the areas, he works over in Snow Hill as a pharmacist. So, he could potentially look at relocation, but last I talked with him, he is still looking into the area of Marion to Crisfield. It is something down here that just keeps people here, I can't explain it.

Knorr: Would you say that maybe part of that like where your brother's still looking and you're rooted and there's, there is a side to the, you were speaking to it a little earlier in the interview about like the close-knitness and together. You know sometimes it may be why the people of

Crisfield will drive through the floods because they want to you know see what's going on and everything but would you say that is maybe one of the biggest draws that Crisfield can offer?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I mean, and its familiarity more than anything. You know, we're familiar with the town. We're familiar the area. Even, you know, I can walk down the street now and probably name you 10, 15 head that we'll see when we walk down there. That's what people down here like. It's the comfortability of knowing who you're with, who you around in your community. And don't get me wrong. I've never lived anywhere else besides here and Frostburg, so I couldn't tell you if it's like that anywhere else. But down here it is. It's just something special that, that, it, it is like a big family, you know what I mean? And even if, for the people that are from here, if you know that person, then you know their mother, their father, and their grandparents knew your grandparents, and it's- it's a lineage connection, more than anything. And that's, yeah, I think that's what keeps us here, that really, that factor just draws us.

Knorr: Do you kind of in your professional role with the City Council or anything you guys try to implement things like that or is that like a emphasis of like kind of the beauty of Crisfield, you know?

Goldsborough: No, yeah, that's just the beauty of Crisfield. I mean, no way, shape, or form could somebody implement that. It's just how it was down here. I'm mean, and that's like a historical thing. A perfect example, a guy I used to work for that owned the Watermen's Inn downtown. He was from Massachusetts, I believe Massachusetts, somewhere up north. And him and his wife came to Crisfield for Crab Derby or something, and that was when they decided they were going to open up a business. They were Johnson and Wales trained chefs and decided to come down and open up restaurant. And I always asked him, I was like, "Why did you choose here?" he said, "Because this is the closest place to Mayberry of the Andy Griffith Show." he said, "This is the closest place I've ever seen to it." He said, "Everybody knows everybody and they're all friendly." I mean for the longest time my family didn't even lock their doors down here. No one locked their cars. Some people leave their keys in their cars still, you know what I mean? It's just that small town tight-knit community.

Schatz: Would you recommend Crisfield as a place to live?

Goldsborough: Depends on who I'm talking to. Yeah, I would definitely have to know my audience for that. If it's two guys like yourself, I probably wouldn't recommend it because unless you guys are willing to be home most of the time and- and- and enjoying yard work and enjoying spending time with your families. It's- it's not going to be much to do down here, but if you're looking at somebody who wants peace and tranquility and quietness in just a small-town community where they know that they can go and have a bite to eat at a few restaurants or go get carry out different things like that, yeah, I'd completely recommend it to some people.

Schatz: Last question, what, what wisdom would you share on the future generations?

Goldsborough: Definitely be concerned about your infrastructure. I know that our business sector is lacking and we don't have certain businesses, we have bars, we don't have five-star hotels, and you know, we don't have all that, but when we neglect our infrastructure down here is when we really start to seeing the town go by the wayside, and I mean, that's with ditch maintenance, with tide gates, that's with water and sewer, it's everything. You know, focus on what makes this place inhabitable and that's your infrastructure.

Knorr: Yeah, sort of also, tying with that, do you think that there's kind of that, a bit of a delicate balance between trying to grow it and keep it close-knit, you know, the infrastructure thing I think is something that can help build up just the town in general, but when you're trying to get more people to come back in and for more businesses and everything, it just, it will attract more people and everything and then it kind of can lose a little bit of that.

Goldsborough: Yeah, and that's always been something that's been talked about it's never been an issue because we've never seen the big expansion, but yeah, you've got to find the solid balance between growth and too much growth. You can't let the this place turn into Ocean City tomorrow, you know, because Ocean City had a small tight knit community like Crisfield did at one point. Everybody knew everybody who lived pretty much from down to the- the harbor up to I think like 23rd Street or something like that, then you started getting the large companies coming in, they started buying out places and they started moving now. I don't, I don't even know if half the people know anybody in Ocean City. So, you don't want to see that because that's part of the charm that we really market ourselves off of is being that small town. But yet, if we stay the way that we are, your businesses aren't going to survive. We'll be no better than Deal Island.

Knorr: Yeah, I guess that's sort of, like you said, that touches I guess on some of the projects, the FEMA one important to keeping infrastructure and helping that sustainable growth, but then also like you've said, you know, 24, a venue that has 24 people coming in all year and then like the docks around, like maybe it's more geared towards like an Ocean City vibe than a.

Goldsborough: Exactly, and look there's pushes for that and I can understand argument for both of them. You know we are going to try to push to have a venue on the, the depot, the final, the end dock and that's great, but, but when you're looking at 24 events and sustaining a community, perfect example, Ocean City can't sustain what Ocean City does. Every year they have to get visas for Ukrainians and, and, and Yugoslavians and different people like that to come over and work there, and that's great. However, when you have different issues where you can't get those visas and you can have certain people coming in and there's people that aren't allowed then it creates the issue of there's jobs but nobody to work 'em, you know what I mean? And if we ever get to having that problem one day it would be great because we've got more people than we have jobs and that's why you can't keep anybody minimum wage jobs like that isn't going to really sustain the city like we need it to.

Knorr: Yeah, I would imagine that would probably be, some people talk about, everyone has an opinion which is good, you know you want different, but, you know, it can get difficult because some people want, you know, want these big expansion projects and want this big thing and it's like others prioritize different things. Does that ever get hard?

Goldsborough: Yeah, I mean yeah that, it's a big thing because you know some people don't understand, first off some people understand how business works and, and look you can want a Royal Farms and a Wawa, or a five-star hotel with a convention center here. If it's not a sustain itself it doesn't make sense for them to be down here because then we're gonna have a big old empty building that's just going to falling apart, crumbling apart and the city's have to deal with. Same thing with a dock around the entire city and the depot, you know. The idea of that is a great idea, but in reality we don't make enough tax dollars to fix what we have now. We have to get grants after, and you know looking at the way we're looking at grants, grants aren't guaranteed, especially if you get a new administration in who's like, "Hey, this isn't that important to us anymore." So, it's, it's frustrating.

Knorr: Is there anything else that you'd like to kind of, you know, say about kind of Crisfield and you want people to know about Crisfield if they.

Goldsborough: No, just even though I'm, I'm hard on it, it is my favorite place in the world. I love it down here. Nothing's better than going to Gordon's on a Saturday morning and getting a Coke but it's, it's stressful to think about the future when we have flooding as bad as we do.

Knorr: And you would, you would, despite all of it, you'd still say that you're very, positive on the, like you said, you believe that it's due for kind of that that growth?

Goldsborough: Oh, absolutely yeah when you when you see where Princess Anne is and we're 15 minutes away from them they're growing with a University and plenty of businesses but not everybody wants to live where they work. No, people don't mind a 15-minute drive to work or 30-minute drive to work and then when they know there's a waterfront community down here that can guarantee that you're not going to flood but has proper infrastructure in place to prevent from homes and property from flooding. That's when you'll start to see people being like, this is better down here than it is up there. You know what I mean?

Knorr: Yeah that's one thing we've heard a lot about Crisfield is just the, the sun, the sunset and the sunrise, just the natural beauty of Crisfield and everything and, and we've kind of, as we're driving through, you know, you kind of see the area and you're like, yeah this is very, it is, it's a little strange to see that, you know, there's a very nice library is a perfect example of like good proper infrastructure where it's like, it can withstand probably most of the high tides and right off the, the water and everything and it's like, you know, it's a very there is clearly a lot of potential here that it's kind of untapped I would say, yeah.

Goldsborough: Yeah, it definitely is and that's you know where this is one of the newer buildings so you can see how the idea has changed of buildings, so you know you've got the Dollar General right across the road and that was built, oh gosh things are, I think in the nineties maybe late eighties. Anyway, it was built right on the ground you know they really didn't think about the flooding things like that when they built this place okay we'll put it on pilings we'll make it stand up it can withstand tides floods things like that and you know now we're working on our way to make homes like that and they're lifting homes across the city which is great but how long will that last you once you know you can't have a house that just sits in water all day.

Schatz: Have you been to like in North Carolina like the beach area?

Goldsborough: The Outer Banks?

Schatz: Yeah, the Outer Banks. Have you seen the, how they put those houses on like big pillars?

Goldsborough: Mhmm, mhmm.

Schatz: Have the city of Crisfield thought about that yet?

Goldsborough: Yeah, so we don't necessarily just do that. I mean, we're doing foundations and concrete pillars and all. But yeah, in fact, there's the house, I think it's right over here, that's built just like that. It's built on huge pilings. And yeah, we have a building code where you have to be a certain amount of feet above a level of flooding, which everywhere does that's FEMA regulated. But going higher than that is the bigger thing like and did, nerding out and guys again, the city has something called a two-foot freeboard. So, when if we say like right here, you need to be five feet above where the flood level is, so you go five feet for flood and then you have to go another two feet to just have your freeboards there, so then you're gonna be seven feet in the air to build a home. That's helping not only our citizens from flooding but it's helping the area to deal with high flood insurance that's crippling our community because they can't afford it. But yeah, so we do different techniques like that, like there's a Mennonite group going around now that's actually taking older homes and lifting them, and then building brick foundations around them, or block foundations around it and lifting it.

Schatz: Seen some of those.

Goldsborough: Yeah. And it's funny because the concept of that, I don't want to say it started, but it originated from Hollands Island. So, Hollands Island, I don't know if you guys heard the story or if you ask it, you can look it up in the NABB Center, they did a presentation on it a few years ago, it's beautiful. It was an island in Dorchester County, and a lot of families from there came here because they were solely based around the seafood industry. And, one of the more famous people from there, I think, was I.T. Todd. He was actually the last kid born over there.

And his father, when they tore down their house, they tore every board down, brick down, brought it over to Crisfield and rebuilt it. But when they rebuilt it, they ordered extra bricks and they took it nine bricks high. And all the Crisfielders were like, "Why are you lifting it so high?" And he told them, he said, "Because the water's going to come here too." he said, "And I'm going to make sure that I don't have to worry about it at that point." And yeah, his house is out here on the highway and you can tell it's the only one that's nine bricks high.

Knorr: Yeah, I mean that, that kind of speaks to what you're saying too about that helps kind of ensure and guarantee for businesses that when the flood comes, you know, no huge damage is going to get done. You'll be able to withstand and you'll move on and for, same with homes, it's you know no real damage and it can kind of help develop the area I guess and grow.

Goldsborough: Yeah, and that, look, even if you're trapped in because the roads are flooded, if your peace of mind and, and tranquility of knowing that "My house is fine", you'll be okay. But it's when you're threatening, you're running to the back door like, "Oh, that water's creeping up to the third step, now we only got one more step to go," that's when people start getting their anxiety off, start getting worried. You know, I had a guy tell me that during the October 29th flood, he had to actually shut off part of his breaker box because it was close to getting in to not just his house but where the electric sockets were on the outside so, we had to shut all them off or he would have fried his whole house.

Schatz: Thank you, for interviewing for us.

Goldsborough: No, no problem, guys. Just make sure you guys email me the thing and I'll get that signed over for you.

Schatz: You email it to you?

Knorr: Yup, yeah.

Goldsborough: Perfect, perfect. No, I appreciate you guys coming down though, sorry to make you drive down

[Transcript ends]